



Damon T. Hininger
President & Chief Executive Officer
CoreCivic Facility Support Center

July 6, 2020

Via email to dhall@DCSO.nashville.org

The Honorable Daron Hall
Sheriff, Nashville-Davidson County
P.O. Box 196383
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-6383

Re: Contract #6464945

Dear Sheriff Hall:

CoreCivic is proud of its nearly 30-year partnership with the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Metro) to operate the Metro-Davidson County Detention Facility. We have consistently worked in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office to provide high quality services and programming for locally sentenced inmates from the Tennessee Department of Correction. In contrast to that spirit of collaboration, we learned first from media reports of your July 1 email to Councilman O'Connell and July 2 press statement outlining your support to end CoreCivic's contract and for the Sheriff's Office to assume operation of the facility.

It appears that you and some members of the Metro Nashville Council are pushing an agenda that's void of facts, ideologically driven and completely ignores CoreCivic's decades long history of exceptional performance. This proposed action to end our contract would not only result in millions of dollars in increased liabilities to the already strained Metro budget to cover costs in excess of what is funded by the state, but it would also potentially jeopardize the life-changing reentry programming currently delivered to the inmates in our care.

Furthermore, Councilmembers Benedict and O'Connell are being dishonest about our company. Contrary to statements in their July 2 press release, under longstanding policy, CoreCivic does not draft, lobby for, promote or in any way take a position on proposals, policies or legislation that determine the basis or duration of an individual's incarceration. In fact, CoreCivic has been an outspoken advocate for numerous criminal justice reform initiatives, including the federal First Step Act, which has resulted in thousands of prisoner releases.

As you know, specifically at the Metro facility, CoreCivic provides a wide range of evidence-based educational services and counseling to help individuals leaving incarceration achieve success in work and life. Examples of these programs include Go Further, Men of Valor (faith-based ministry), victim impact, anger management, alcoholics and narcotics anonymous, Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP), Healing Journeys (faith based), Second Chances dog socialization program, cosmetology, parenting, Paws Greyhound training program, Life Principles (faith based), Unlock your Thinking, Motivated for Change, Sending Musicians to Prison, Wheels for the World, Adult Basic Education, computer classes, My Song for Life, Lee Company HVAC program and financial management.

The press release from Councilmembers Benedict and O'Connell also incorrectly states that continued operation of the facility would put profits ahead of people. In fact, CoreCivic has experienced operating losses at this facility since 2018. Despite these losses, we continued to honor our contractual commitment.

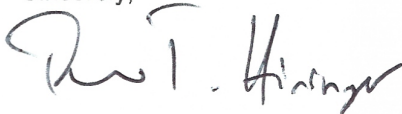
During this same period, we also provided well-deserved wage increases to all of our corrections professionals, not guards as they were derogatorily referred to by Councilmember Benedict.

The current contract ends July 29, 2020. On May 21, CoreCivic received Notice of Intent to Award a new five-year contract for the continued operation of the facility resulting from a pending RFQ and has negotiated in good faith to finalize a contract since that time. These actions serve as further evidence that the motives for ending our contract are purely political and are not performance based. Your July 2 statement even confirms that "CoreCivic has consistently met contractual requirements" during the 25 years the Sheriff's Office has served as contract monitor. Last Thursday, we received a Letter of Acceptance for Contract Extension from Metro requesting that CoreCivic agree to extend the current contract to August 21, 2020. The letter included no explanation of the basis for the extension although it clearly appears to be connected to the recent publicized efforts to end our contract since that date would allow the proposed legislation to receive the required number of readings before the Metro Council.

While we acknowledge that it is Metro's prerogative to take steps toward ending our contract, we cannot allow our company, more importantly our employees, to be used as a punching bag by political opportunists who do not value the services we provide. We recognize the need for an orderly transition of facility operations, but cannot agree to be strung along while Metro takes calculated steps to end our partnership. We will provide a ninety (90) day transition plan that would begin on the date of this letter and would expire on October 4, 2020, sixty-six (66) days after the current contract expiration on July 29.

There are communities all across the country, represented by leaders of both parties, who have worked with us for nearly four decades. They know first-hand the value we provide, the professionalism of our staff and our commitment to helping the people in our care prepare for whatever may be next in their lives. We thought that you did too. At the Metro facility, we applaud the hundreds of corrections professionals like yourself who have worked diligently over the years to care for the inmates entrusted to us. We've been particularly proud of our reentry programming, including helping inmates complete 205 GEDs and 389 industry recognized certificates between January 2015 and May 2020 alone. At the same time, political leadership in Nashville has made it clear that they would prefer to exit our partnership. In fact, there is apparently no price they won't pay – including diverting taxpayer dollars from the community at a time they are most needed. We are deeply saddened that Nashville's leaders are playing politics with people's lives rather than working toward meaningful change.

Sincerely,



Damon T. Hininger

Cc: Nashville Mayor John Cooper (via email to John.Cooper@nashville.gov)
Nashville Vice-Mayor Jim Schulman (via email to Jim.Schulman@nashville.gov)
Councilmember Emily Benedict (via email to Emily.Benedict@nashville.gov)
Councilmember Freddie O'Connell (via email to Freddie.Oconnell@nashville.gov)
Councilmember Bob Mendes, Chair, Budget and Finance Committee (via email to Bob.Mendes@nashville.gov)
Mr. Kevin Crumbo, Metro Director of Finance (via email to Kevin.Crumbo@nashville.gov)
Ms. Terri Ray, Metro Procurement Division (via email to Terri.Ray@nashville.gov)
Commissioner Tony Parker, Tennessee Department of Correction (via email to Tony.C.Parker@tn.gov)
Commissioner Butch Eley, Tennessee Department of Finance (via email to Butch.Eley@tn.gov)
Mr. Justin Wilson, Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury (via email to Justin.Wilson@cot.tn.gov)